

**Greenways & Trails Council Meeting**  
**Delaware Public Archives, Dover, DE**  
**June 3, 2009**  
**9:30AM**

**Welcome & Introductions**

Paul Morrill, Chairperson, called meeting to order at 9:35a.m. He invited members and visitors to introduce themselves and identify their agency.

**Approval Meeting Minutes**

Paul Morrill asked for a motion to accept the February 4, 2009 minutes as written. Deborah Heaton moved to approve and Diane Wilson seconded, motion passed.

**Reports**

Education & Outreach – Diane Wilson, Council Member reported the following items:

- Vertical Banner Holders: Diane and Susan met to finalize design. Banners hold images of recreational trail activities - biking, hiking, equestrian, water trails, and multi-use trails. Expect to have banners at DE State Fair in July.
- The Park Resource Office is preparing a State Trail Forum agenda to be held in Rehoboth Beach in February 2010. DE Recreation and Park Society will host. Forum to provide opportunities for land planners, trail administrators, managers, advocacy groups, builders, and trail users to network, learn about, and promote trails for the future.
- National Trails Day - June 6, 2009. Theme is 'Taking in the Outdoors.' Activities can be found on the American Hiking Society's website.
- DE State Fair - July 30, 2009/Governors Day: Last year's activity is used which encourages youth to pledge to *'get outside, away from the computer.'* Debbie Heaton designed this Pledge Card which includes a placeholder for a picture and a log for activities. Once pledged, the youth photo is placed in the pledge card and a record of activities is kept throughout summer. A signup sheet was circulated for volunteers.
- Coast Day – October 4, 2009: Council on Greenways & Trails has the opportunity to tell their story and meet other enthusiasts. A signup sheet was circulated for volunteers.

Bicycle Council – Mike Krumrine, Park Resource Office, reported the following items:

- Bike Council Meetings are held every first Wednesday of alternate months from 5p.m. to 7p.m. at DelDOT's Administration Building, Dover, DE.

- On April 24, 2009 the Bike Council hosted an all-day Bicycle Summit at Dover's DelTech, Terry Campus. It was a success. Enthusiasts within and out of Delaware, including civic leaders, politicians, business people and Governor Markell attended. Thanks to Jennifer Baldwin and Anthony Aglio from DelDOT who planned and coordinated this event. Attendance exceeded expectations with over 260 people. Another summit is being discussed for next year.
- Bike Council is working with Legislators to introduce the 'Three Foot Bill.' This Bill legally requires a vehicle passing a cyclist to allow a three-foot banner, or must slow down when unable to provide clearance. Bill is not enforceable but gives legal recourse in the event of an accident.
- A cell phone Bill is with General Assembly 'banning texting while driving.' This Bill applies to bicyclists, and not equestrians.
- Diane Wilson commended Bike Council for educating and outreaching cyclists especially in the Rehoboth area where there are many young foreign cyclists.

Equestrian Community – Peggy Koster, Council Member, reported the following items:

- The Equine Council's mission is to promote, protect and enhance the keeping of equine in Delaware.
- A table listing all equestrian trails in DE was available. Mike Krumrine reviews and updates this table for use on the Division's website and for distribution to the Equine Council. Trails are multi-use; none is strictly dedicated to horses.
- Council is participating in the 2009 DE State Fair.
- Ms. Koster is planning a multi-purpose Trails Etiquette which would tie in horse-riders, bikers and hikers. She asked for volunteers to design a brochure for her website.

Mountain Biking – Jim Ireland, Council Member, reported the following items:

- Jim, a twenty year veteran of the Delaware Trail Spinners, an activist cyclist group in northern Delaware, Maryland and PA.
- Jim agreed with Peggy Koster that a horse and bike trails etiquette is needed although most northern DE bikers are courteous to other trail users.
- Jim presented information highlighting a partnership with the State Parks. Under guidance from Rob Line, Stewardship Program Manager, the DE Trail Spinners are being trained in invasive species control and removal. Targeted areas are along trails to improve sightlines and safety for trail users.
- Introduction to Mountain Biking classes are held every third Sunday at White Clay Creek. Council is invited to visit and participate. Classes range from a wide age group and geared to teach riding techniques, trail safety and shared-use trail courtesies.
- Several DE Trail Spinners have become Park Watch volunteers at White Clay Creek State Park. Park Watch volunteers serve as ambassadors by helping park users, performing light maintenance, reminding folks of park rules (when necessary), and generally informing, assisting and educating park users.
- National Trails Day Redd Park and trail dedication will be held tonight, all are invited.
- Charlie Emerson commended Jim and DE Trail Spinners for their many volunteer hours and dedication to trail work in the Redd Park.

## Updates

C&D Canal – Jeff Dayton, Congressman Mike Castle’s Office:

- Jeff said a good working relationship through the concept and design phase was had by all partners on the proposed Trail Project. Partners include Division of Parks & Recreation, Fish & Wildlife, DelDOT, New Castle County, Delaware City, Chesapeake City, and US Army Corps of Engineers.
- He acknowledged Council’s efforts in opening the C&D for recreation. Design of Phase I - north side of the Canal from Delaware City to Chesapeake City should be complete in June.
- The 14-mile trail ranges from twelve to fifteen feet wide with approximately two-thirds width paved surface and one-third width crushed stone surface.
- Trail-head at Guthrie’s run is designed for equestrian parking.
- Phase I is estimated to cost between \$14.7million and \$15.4million.
- Jeff attended a meeting on Monday which discussed the eligibility of this project getting ‘Stimulus’ funding.

Mr. Castle is putting together language for C&D Canal in the Water Resources Development Act that expands the Corps of Engineers site mission that includes recreation. The trail would be constructed by the Corps of Engineers. Jeff would like to see the project advertised for construction this fall, if funding is available; and begin construction in spring 2010.

Jeff agreed that having a trail day at the C&D Canal for this unique resource to raise awareness is a great idea. Paul Morrill said Council wrote letters to members of the Bond Bill Committee and the Army Corp of Engineers expressing support. Paul also asked what Council could do to bring more awareness. Jeff welcomed the two letters of support from Council but added that his one concern is that Congress expected the ‘Stimulus’ funds be used on roads and bridges which would exclude funding for this project.

State Parks Trail Projects – David Bartoo, Park Resource Office:

David presented slides of several trail projects and outlined their status.

- Burton Island Boardwalk: construction complete on Phase 1. In fall 2009, final phase will be completed.
- Partnership projects with New Castle County in the Middle Run Valley Natural Area – Coordination continues with the county, DE Trail Spinners, and Delaware State Parks to plan and construct a valley-wide network of trails crossing county and state lands.
- Middle Run Crossing – short trail connector was completed with volunteer labor between Paper Mill Park and Middle Run Crossing subdivision.
- Cape Henlopen State Park – Foot bridge replacement.
- Lums Pond State Park – Trail improvements completed in phases. Trail system upgrades include rerouting trails away from wet soils, constructing replacement bridges that are accessible and safe. Connections through the campground will be made later this year to provide a better link from the C&D Canal to the park’s trail system.
- A partnership project with City of Newark to replace a bridge on the James Hall Trail ongoing.
- Trap Pond State Park - equestrian trail extended by approximately 1.5 miles.

**Trail User Counters – Thomas “Chip” Kneavel, Trail Crew Chief:**

Chip Kneavel reported on the installation of trail counters on trails in White Clay Creek State Park. The objective for a trail monitoring device is to get accurate data on trail users numbers and types. Until recently, data collected by State Park staff was incomplete, not usable or questionable. White Clay Creek State Park is the first Park to have seven scientific/magnetic trail counters installed. These counters work with infrared beams that cross, such as, a reflector reflects a light beam back to a receiver and when the beam is broken, a count is registered. A second counter is buried underground so that when a trail user walks or bikes on trail, the sensor detects vibrations and a count is registered. These magnetic trail counters pick up all trail users. It is hoped counters can be expanded throughout the State Parks of Delaware. Devices are very accurate and inexpensive, initial package costs about \$2,500.

**Trail User Assessment – Susan Moerschel, Park Resource Office:**

The Park Resource Office team is conducting a survey this summer of trail users in White Clay Creek State Park. Objectives are to determine if there is conflict between hikers and bikers, and, to gather level of use, demographics, and other information about trail users in the park. The team will use Rapid Assessment Visitor Inventory (RAVI), a scientifically tested survey methodology. Information gathered will provide data, nature, and degree of trail conflicts. RAVI results help resource managers better manage their properties and facilities giving direction for improvements. The survey is taken over four consecutive days. Findings will be shared at the next meeting.

**East Coast GW Trail – Susan Moerschel:**

A nomination package designating 8.2 miles as part the Delaware segment of East Coast Greenway Trail was submitted to the Northern Delaware Greenway Trail. The nomination package was sent in April. Results will come from the East Coast Greenways Alliance staff.

**Presentations**

New Castle Industrial Rail Trail & Mill Creek Greenway Trail – Jonathan Husband, New Castle County, Department of Special Services

Jonathan Husband presented slides on the status of the New Castle Industrial Rail Trail and Mill Creek Greenway Trail. He thanked Council for the DTF grant assistance provided for both trails. Stimulus funds received from The American Recover Reinvestment Act enabled this project to move forward. Located on the former rail-line between City of New Castle and Wilmington riverfront, this project extends from Route 273 to Boulden Blvd on the south side, and runs parallel to I-295.

**Mill Creek Greenway Trail:**

Mill Creek Greenway is over 8-miles long connecting to several park systems. Council gave a grant to construct a portion of Mill Creek. Federal ‘stimulus’ funds will be used to connect the edge of the Golf Course to Mill Creek.

**Nanticoke River Water Trail – Mike Krumrine, Park Resource Office:**

Mike Krumrine briefed the Council on the status of the Captain John Smith National Historic Water Trail (CaJo Trail). A National Park Service grant was received from their Chesapeake Bay

Gateways Network Program to develop the Nanticoke River Water Trail that runs concurrently with Captain John Smith Trail. Resource experts in history, heritage and culture are participating in project development. Mike presented slides of the five segments that comprise the 26-mile long Nanticoke River Water Trail. A map and guide are the major project components in this phase of water trail development. The guide has safety tips and information needed to plan a river trip. History, heritage and cultural interpretive contents are developed for the guide portion. Publication is expected July 2010.

Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoys have been installed around the bay on CaJo Trail segments. These 'smart buoys' collect real time meteorological weather information, wind temperature and stories on John Smith's voyage. Information is on the web [www.buoybay.org](http://www.buoybay.org) or dial direct to the buoys toll-free # (877-BUOY BAY) (1-877-286-9229). Delaware hopes to obtain buoys for the Nanticoke River. Council could consider a letter to the Congressional delegation of its interest.

### **Announcements**

Next Council meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2009 at Dover Public Archives starting at 9:30AM.

### **Adjourn**

Mr. Morrill asked for a motion to adjourn. Charles Emerson made a motion and Jim Ireland seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:25PM.

### **Meeting Attendance**

#### **Appointed Members**

Paul Morrill, Chair  
Charles Emerson  
Deborah M. Heaton  
James Ireland  
Peggy Koster  
Diane Wilson

#### **Agency Members**

Jennifer Baldwin, DelDOT  
Austin Short, DOA

#### **Guests**

Jeff Dayton, Congressman Michael Castle Office  
Jonathan Husband, Dept of Special Services, NCCo.

#### **Division of Parks and Recreation Staff**

David Bartoo  
Matt Chesser  
Bob Ehemann  
Thomas Kneavel  
Mike Krumrine  
Don Long  
Susan Moerschel  
Rose Ryödi (support)